Affirmative employment programme for SCs and STs

1451. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that the Ministry had series of meetings with certain industrialists for implementing affirmative employment programme for SCs and STs;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the names of industrialists who were positive in the discussion; and

(d) the details of any industrial group which had actually implemented the affirmative action programme?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) to (c) In pursuance of the commitment contained in the National Common Minimum Programme to initiate a dialogue with Industry and other associations to fulfil the aspirations of the Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes youth, a Group of Ministers was formed. The Group held consultations with the representatives of Apex Industry Associations. In May, 2005, 21 captains of industry had issued a statement welcoming the move of the Government to have a dialogue with the industry on affirmative action. The signatories were: Ms. Anu Aga, Mr. Rahul Bajaj, Mr. Kumara Mangalam Birla, Mr. Tarun Das, Mr. Naushad Forbes, Mr. A.S. Ganguly, Mr. Jamshyd N. Godrej, Mr. FT. Khorakiwala, Mr. H.F Khorakiwala, Mr. Suresh Krishna, Mr. Keshub Mahendra, Dr. AC. Muthiah, Mr. Sunil Kant Munjal, Mr. B. Muthuraman, Mr. N.R. Narayana Murthy, Mr. Deepak Parekh, Mr. Azim Premji, Mr. S. Ramadorai, Mr. Gurpreet Singh, Mr. R.N. Tata, and Mr. Gautam Thapar.

(d) A Special Training Programme for Scheduled Caste professionals was organized by Infosys Technologies at International Institute of Information Technology, Bangalore from October, 2006 to April, 2007.

Employment for mentally ill

1452. SHRIMATI HEMA MALINI : Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware that a large number of disabled and mentally ill people are without any employment;

(b) if so, whether Government is considering to provide them gainful employment;

(c) if so, the details thereof, State-wise; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) According to the survey on disabled persons conducted by the National Sample Survey Organization (NSSO) in 2002,26 per cent persons with disabilities were employed.

(b) to (d) In the Budget Speech for the year 2007-08, Hon'ble Finance Minister has announced a scheme for reimbursing Government's share of Employees Provident Fund and Employees State Insurance for a period of 3 years to employers in the organized sector for providing one lakh regular jobs annually to Physically Challenged Persons.